

# Resourceful Waves

## Summary of Saginaw Bay RC&D's Summer Full Council meeting.

### Important Dates:

- **10/08/13  
Partnership for  
Saginaw Bay  
Watershed  
Delisting meeting  
@ Bay County  
Library**
- **10/21/13 DNR  
Public Input-  
Shoreline Access  
meeting  
@DoubleTree**
- **10/23/13  
Partnership for  
Saginaw Bay  
Watershed Annual  
meeting @SVSU**
- **10/24/13  
Saginaw Bay  
Coordinating  
Council meeting @  
Planetarium**
- **RC&D Executive  
Brd. Meetings  
10/29/13,  
11/26/13, Dec.-  
No meeting,  
01/28/13**

Our Summer Full Council meeting was held on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 at the Thumb Octagon Barn in Gagetown, MI. We would like to thank those who were able to attend and we would also like to extend a thank you to the wonderful volunteers at the Thumb Octagon Barn who gave us a great tour of the facilities. Saginaw Bay RC&D's Executive Director, Jim Hergott and the administrator Tiffany Foco did some reporting of RC&D project updates, how the organization has continually been improving and there was also discussion of the future of the RC&D. Then we heard from the individual districts and NRCS about updates within their organizations. After the meeting, we had a wonderful tour of the Thumb Octagon Barn and had some lunch and some great networking time.



## 2014 Saginaw Bay RC&D's "Celebration of Success" / Annual Meeting

Plans are currently underway to hold a 2<sup>nd</sup> Saginaw Bay Watershed "Celebration of Success" meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Bay City. (Location and Time still to be announced) This meeting will be similar to the one we held two years ago at the DoubleTree hotel. This meeting will include breakout sessions, display areas, and a guest speaker for lunch. Anyone who is interested in presenting a breakout session, please feel free to contact us at [saginawbay@aol.com](mailto:saginawbay@aol.com) or on our Facebook Pages.



As we are reaching the end of this grant, we would like to give you some final updates. Our **Saginaw Bay America's Great Outdoors Initiative** Facebook page is gradually showing a lot more interest.



Day by day we are receiving new "Likes". We are proud to celebrate success in the Saginaw Bay and its' Watershed by promoting success stories and projects that are currently in the works on our pages, giving credit directly to you and your organization, whatever it may be. The General public are usually not aware of these wonderful things being done to the

Saginaw Bay and its' Watershed unless we reach out to them and let them know. Also, take some time to check out our project database on our website at [www.saginawbayrcd.org](http://www.saginawbayrcd.org). We are always accepting projects. If you e-mail them to us, simply give a brief summary of the project, the title and a logo with a link so we can link it to your website of

choice. This has been a wonderful grant to work on and we are looking forward to continue to provide recreation through conservation any way that we can.



## Invasive Species Management (Phragmites)

The Saginaw Bay shoreline has been taken over in many locations by a tall invasive plant known as Phragmites, the Saginaw Bay RC&D obtained a grant through US Fish and Wildlife in 2010 to work with landowners to help manage this invasive through chemical application and educating the landowners of Best Management Practices (BMP's). Initially the grant

was set for us to spray for 2 years, with the expectation that the cooperating landowners will manage the Phragmites on their property for 10 years. We discovered we had enough grant money left over to spray for a third year. We started the final chemical application the first and second week of September 2013. We would like to thank S&R Environmental for

applying the chemical application for us. We are currently in the process of compiling a packet of information for the landowners to utilize once the grant period is complete on Best Management Practices.



## Cass River Virtual Watershed Tour Video Production

In our last quarterly newsletter (April-June 2013) we brought to your attention that we had begun video production on a Virtual Watershed Tour, since then we have been working diligently with Great Sand Bay Productions to finish this

video. We revised the script and sent it off to be read as a voice over by a professional. The editing process has been the most time consuming. It has been a learning experience, considering we are conservationists and not video producers. ,

the video is shaping up quite nicely and we are very excited to receive the finished product and distribute it to as many people as we can. Be on the lookout for information regarding the completed video in weeks to come.

## USDA NRCS announces FY 2013 Conservation Innovation Grant National Awardees

### Conservation Technology Information Center (IA, IL, IN, MI, OH, MN, SD) \$482,000

*Economic, Agronomic and Environmental Benefits of Cover Crops for New and Established Users*

Producers, plant grasses, legumes, brassicas and/or small grains between regular primary crop production periods to gain multiple conservation and sustainability benefits, including the protection and improvement of soil and water quality and improvement of wildlife and pollinator habitat. These cover crops offer many potential benefits to farming operations and the communities that surround them. Incorporating cover crops into farming systems incurs economic and management costs that may discourage some producers from adopting the conservation practice. Farmers must evaluate any practice for its contributions to the productivity, profitability and sustainability of their operations. This

project will draw on data from a wide variety of cover crops planted in seven Midwest states – Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, southern Minnesota and South Dakota – and draw upon the insight of growers with a range of experience with cover crop management. The costs and benefits of cover crops will be assessed with proven tools, from mathematical models and cost/benefit assessments to nitrogen rate strip trials, documentation of pollinators in project fields, and extensive communications with participating producers on their choices and decision-making processes. At least 1,000 acres of cover crops will be planted on farms with no previous cover crops. Results and insight from the project will be shared throughout the Midwest via an annual workshop, detailed articles in leading farm magazines reaching more than 350,000 Midwest producers, and printed and online resources, including a



Best Practices booklet and fact sheets. For more information on other grants awarded, please see the following link.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/cig/?cid=stelprdb1186125>



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## RC&D Executive Board Member

### Highlight!

This quarter we introduce you to Mr. Ricky R. Rockwell, Saginaw Bay RC&D Area's Secretary Treasurer. Rick was born and raised on a small dairy farm in Calhoun County, MI. He is a graduate of Michigan State University with a BS in Agriculture and Education. He taught school for 4 years and then came to work for Arenac County in 1974.

"I have been associated since the creation of the Saginaw Bay RC&D Area. I originally tried to become associated with the Huron Pines RC&D Area, but only Iosco, Ogemaw & Roscommon Counties were included. I was the first Secretary Treasurer and assisted in the Group forming. We were funded through J. Bob Traxler, our Congressman, who was

appropriations committee chair. I have assisted with various grants to secure funding and implement projects. It is our ability to accept challenges including working with local units of government and other agencies to act as a coordinating capacity to get things done that have kept me involved in the organization. Finally, Rick added that there is a need for local units to bring their needs to the RC&D Area regarding what seems impossible. "After all, we seeded the Thumb Octagon Barn, Camp Fish Tales, Gladwin County Recreation Complex Recreation Plan, Rifle River Restoration, Abandon Well Closures, Carbon Sequestering, and Dry Fire Hydrants."

He is involved in his community through the Library Board, Kiwanis, Fire Department, his Church, the Historical Society and other Community Projects.



### Final Thoughts...

Community..... How is yours?

Many times we are contacted when groups and/or organizations have identified an issue that is impacting their community in one way or another. Whether it impacts individuals, those in the area or a larger community like the Saginaw Bay Watershed the Saginaw Bay RC&D has for over 20 years provided technical assistance to develop and implement projects that solve those issues. This assistance has been everything from simple encouragement and support to developing detailed project proposals to secure funding.

One thing for sure as my dad use to say "if you want something done right do it yourself". That statement has never been more true than today as federal and state dollars become less available to address local needs. Every day in every community great things are being accomplished that no one ever hears about and that needs to change.

Celebrating Success in the Saginaw Bay and its' Watershed is a belief adopted recently to showcase all the wonderful things being accomplished. Along with the concept, "Recreation through Conservation" the Saginaw Bay RC&D is refocusing its' effort to ensure the Saginaw Bay Watershed remains the wonderful resource it is for all to enjoy. Please join us in social media and visit our website [saginawbayrcd.org](http://saginawbayrcd.org) to see some of the great things happening out there.

If you have something you would like to brag about in your community please feel free to contact us so we can let others know of your success. To be continued.....

Yours in success

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Hergott".

Jim Hergott

Executive Director

